

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on line 17 of page 9, which reads as:

"Figure 1A is a schematic diagram of a smart card."

Please replace the third paragraph at page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of authenticating a user according to a biometric[s] parameter of the user presented at an authentication device on a user-presented device on which is stored a biometric[s] identification template divided into a secure portion and an open portion, the method comprising: transmitting to a client terminal data derived from said user biometric[s] parameter at the authentication device; transmitting to the client terminal only the open portion of the said biometric[s] identification template held on the user-presented device; at the client terminal, implementing a first stage of an identity authentication process between said data and said portion and transmitting the results of said authentication process to the user-presented device; and at the user-presented device implementing a second stage to complete the identity authentication process using said results and issuing an authentication result based thereon.

Please replace the last paragraph at page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Another aspect of the invention provides a system for authenticating a user according to a biometric[s] parameter of the user, the system comprising: a user-presented device on

which is stored a biometric[s] identification template divided into a secure portion and an open portion, wherein only said open portion can be transmitted out of the said device; an authentication device operable to read biometric[s] data derived from a user, and comprising means for communicating with the user-presented device and a client terminal; a client terminal arranged to receive the said open portion of the biometric[s] identification template held on the user-presented device and the biometric[s] data derived from the user, and comprising a client processor operable to implement a first stage of and identity authentication process between said data and said portion and to transmit the results of said identity authentication process to the user-presented device, and wherein the user-presented device comprises a device processor operable to implement a second stage to complete the identity authentication process using said results and to issue an authentication result based thereon.

Please replace the last paragraph at page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

A further aspect of the invention provides a method of registration of a user according to a biometric[s] parameter of the user presented at an authentication device, the method comprising: transmitting to an authorized client terminal data derived from said user biometric[s] parameter obtained at the authentication device; at the authorized client terminal, dividing the biometric[s] identification template computed into secure portion and open portion, transmitting from the authorized client terminal to a user-presented device both the open portion and the secure portion of a biometric[s] identification template, storing the said template consisting of

open and secure portions on the user-presented device, with the secure portion only accessible within the user-presented device and not externally.

Please replace the second paragraph at page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The particular biometric[s] parameter discussed herein is a fingerprint, but it will be appreciated that the invention can be applied to any suitable biometric[s] parameter. In addition, the particular user-presented device discussed herein is a smart card, but it will be appreciated that the invention can be applied to any general portable secure computing and data storage platform.